



GRIDLOCK & KEY

With his work cut out, city's new traffic boss has a focussed action plan to bring relief to our choked roads

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VAPES ARE SOUR

Weekend raid spills dirty secret: Unchecked rise of substance use and vaping among minors under cover of nightlife, private events

PAGE 5

Over last six months, police track down 338 drug hubs in city, with rented accommodations in suburbs being preferred dens; most peddlers hold other occupations to evade suspicion, say police

FRINGE BENEFITS

Delivery mechanism: Drugs in small packets thrown at spot, location sent to customers

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With intensified police crackdowns and increased surveillance across Bengaluru and other urban centres, drug peddlers, particularly foreign nationals, are reportedly shifting their stay as tenants to suburban areas, recent cases have revealed. According to police sources, culprits are now moving into the outskirts, often posing as students or businessmen and renting homes to avoid detection.

A quiet house in Doddabettahalli was exposed as a drug den when Yelahanka Suburban Police seized 700 grams of MDMA worth ₹70 lakh from two foreign nationals. They admitted to peddling drugs sourced from Mathikere to students and others. They had arrived in the city for medical treatment but later started selling drugs to earn easy money.

"Any person can stay anywhere, that's not the point. The police are alert everywhere. Recently, we caught two Nigerians and seized drugs worth ₹4.5 crore.

Generally, narcotics is such a business where everyone knows what's available and where, so they tend to go into hiding.

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“We have our own intelligence, and our police officials remain highly alert during their patrols. The recent case involving 4.5 kg of drugs was solely due to the alertness of the officer on duty

— CK Baba, Superintendent of Police for Bengaluru Rural

Feel the heat

City turns heat island as built-up area surges to 71% pushing land surface temperatures up by over 15°C in 3 decades: Study



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Rapid urbanisation, coupled with the loss of green cover, has turned Bengaluru into a heat island. A new study has highlighted that the built-up area in the city has gone up to 71% in 2023 compared with 22% in 1993. Due to this increase, the outdoor thermal comfort level in the city has shifted from moderate to low from 1993 to 2013, and reached extreme discomfort levels in 2023, as the average land surface temperature went up by 15.13°C over the last three decades.

Bengaluru has experienced an increase of nearly 50% in the built-up area of the Bengaluru Metropolitan, predominantly at the expense of forests and vegetation cover. Researchers highlight that the outdoor thermal comfort of residents in Bengaluru is at risk due to rising land surface temperatures, caused by a change in land cover.

The study categorised four types of land cover in the city: built-up areas, vegetation, water bodies, and barren land. While all impervious surfaces in the city, including buildings and other man-made infrastructure, were classified as built-up areas, all green spaces in the city, including agricultural areas, parks, and forests, are classified under vegetation, and lakes, rivers, streams, etc. included as water bodies. Barren land includes vacant plots, unused and undeveloped land, and brown fields.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Poetic connection

Urban Solace Café is presenting 432 Hz healing music and conscious poetry by Shashank. Electronic music, tuned to 432 Hz frequency promotes relaxation and healing, whereas the poetry explores themes of human behavior, consciousness, spirituality, and life. Together, they create an immersive experience that invites listeners to connect with their inner selves and the universe. **Where:** Urban Solace Café, Ulsoor; **When:** July 22, 7.30 pm

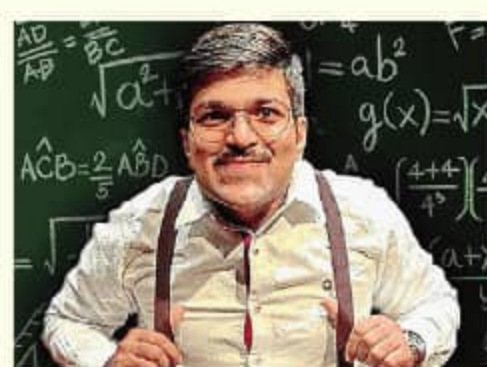
02 Collective change

AndPurpose Forums is hosting an evening of purposeful conversations and collective vision, bringing together a diverse community to explore themes that shape the future of purpose-led action, sparking dialogue and collaboration at the intersection of innovation and intention. **Where:** Sabha Bldg, Shivajinagar; **When:** July 24, 4 pm

03 Musical realm



Rajesh Krishnan, will be performing live, presenting a soulful, nostalgic, and electrifying night. The iconic playback singer will be celebrating decades of Kannada musical brilliance by mesmerising the audience with timeless hits. **Where:** Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; **When:** July 26, 6.30 pm



04 Play time

Theatrenama is presenting 'Refund', a sharp-witted satirical play that masterfully mocks the rigid education system and questions what true knowledge really means. **Where:** Samarathanam Auditorium, HSR Layout; **When:** July 27, 3.30 pm and 7.30 pm

05 Artistic legacy

National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) is organising an online art appreciation session, taking participants on a vibrant exploration of Jamini Roy's legacy - his bold synthesis of Bengali folk traditions, kalighat brushwork, and rustic themes in flat, vivacious colour. **Where:** Live-streamed across all NGMA's official social media platforms; **When:** July 26, 5 pm



Bengaluru's new traffic boss charts plan to unclog city roads

Newly appointed Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic) highlights extensive measures expected to decongest traffic, and tackle abandoned or stranded vehicles causing gridlocks

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With over 1.2 crore vehicles for a population of 1.4 crore, Bengaluru is battling an unprecedented traffic crisis that has earned it global notoriety. Taking charge as the new Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Karthik Reddy told media about a focussed action plan to bring relief to the city's choked arteries.

According to Reddy, nearly 40 major traffic choke points have been identified across the city—many of which are concentrated in East Bengaluru. Chief amongst them is the Outer Ring Road (ORR) corridor, particularly between Central Silk Board and KR Puram, and the Hebbal flyover junction in the north. "It can take a long time to cross this stretch during peak hours," said Reddy, stressing the need for coordinated efforts with Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), and stakeholders like the Outer Ring Road Companies Association (ORRCA).

Strict enforcement on parking

Parking violations have emerged as a silent but serious contributor to congestion. Vehicles parked in no-parking zones eat up road space, slowing traf-



The focused action plan is expected to bring relief to the city's heavily congested roads and ease traffic in high-pressure junctions

fic flow. Reddy stated that the traffic police would soon implement stricter measures, including continuous patrols and fines, to ensure compliance.

Kumbalgodu traffic to be addressed

Post the inauguration of the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway, traffic is flowing faster towards the city—but is getting choked at the Kumbalgodu flyover due to merging chaos between the vehicles coming over and under the flyover. "We plan to hold talks with National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to widen the road near Kadamba Hotel to smoothen the inflow," said Reddy.

Managing Sarjapur Road gridlock

Reddy observed that easing pressure at the Devarabisana-

halli bottleneck junction would automatically improve traffic on Sarjapur Road. Additionally, the department is studying U-turn congestion points, and will consult traffic experts on whether to install additional signals or widen the turning radius for better flow.

Hebbal flyover relief in sight

A long-standing bottleneck at Hebbal flyover, especially due to the delayed KR Puram ramp, is seeing light at the end of the tunnel. Reddy said that one ramp is nearing completion and may be inaugurated in a month, while the second loop may take another three months. "Once these two ramps are operational, we expect at least 50 per cent of the load on Hebbal flyover to be eased," he said after a recent inspection.

Waterlogging at Central Silk Board

A notorious stretch for commuters, the Central Silk Board junction suffers from severe waterlogging during rains, made worse by ongoing Metro construction. "The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has left behind debris that's slowing movement. We've directed them to clear the area," Reddy said.

Revival of towing system

Bengaluru's Traffic Department has operated without a proper towing system for some time now. "We've written to BBMP requesting one towing vehicle for each of the ten traffic subdivisions," said Reddy. Once deployed, this will empower officers to swiftly remove obstructive or illegally parked vehicles that block key roads and junctions.

The city also faces trouble from vehicles abandoned for long durations and frequent breakdowns of heavy vehicles during peak hours. "We've noticed at least 4-5 heavy vehicle breakdowns daily, which block lanes and create long queues," Reddy explained. The department is working with BMTC and other agencies to station wreckers at 6-7 arterial points. These wreckers will be used during morning and evening peak hours to promptly tow away stalled heavy vehicles. Both the law and order wing and Traffic Department will now coordinate to trace owners of long-abandoned vehicles left on the roads.

Sharp rise in GST registrations across Karnataka

Karnataka has witnessed a significant surge in Goods and Services Tax (GST) registrations in the April-June quarter of financial year 2025-26, with 34,811 new registrations recorded—nearly four times the 8,652 registrations in the same period last year. The sharp rise is attributed to increased awareness amongst traders and the issuance of notices by the Commercial Tax Department to businesses that exceeded the GST threshold without registering. April alone saw 10,785 registrations, followed by

12,105 in May and 10,921 in June, compared to just 2,204, 2,922, and 3,526 respectively, during the same months last year.

Officials credit the jump to growing compliance awareness amongst small traders, many of whom now understand that GST registration isn't limited to high-turnover businesses. Additionally, efforts to detect unregistered businesses exceeding Rs 20 lakh in services or Rs 40 lakh in goods turnover have led to enforcement actions and consequent registrations. However, tax authorities say more time is needed to confirm whether this trend is a lasting shift driven solely by enforcement or broader voluntary compliance. — **BMB**

CM urged to hand over stampede case to CBI

The Leader of Opposition in Karnataka Assembly, R Ashoka, on Saturday wrote to Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to hand over the investigation into the stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru to the Central Bureau of Investigation.

The stampede on June 4 led to the death of 11 people, while 56 were injured, as people thronged to participate in the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) team's Indian Premier League (IPL) victory celebrations.

"This case is a 'black spot' in the history of Karnataka sports. There has been an accusation-counter-accusation between the police and the state government on this issue," Ashoka shared in a letter on X.

"It is reported in the media that the



stampede happened because of the failure of the police to control the crowd. But the government has washed its hands by suspending the police officers. In this regard, the hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal, in the hearing on the petition filed regarding the suspension of an officer, opined that it is inappropriate to blame only the police officers for this," he added.

He said that the question still remains as to who is the real culprit behind this case, which has resulted in the loss of the lives of innocent people. — **ANI**

Bribes demanded via UPI? Report immediately

The Commercial Tax Department has issued a public alert following media reports that some officials or staff are allegedly demanding bribes through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in connection with departmental matters. The department has also received inputs that certain middlemen are approaching traders under the guise of offering help and are demanding money, which has raised serious concerns. In an official statement, the department clarified that it is taking such cases seriously, and is committed to taking strict legal action against any officer or staff member found guilty of such misconduct. Traders and business owners have been urged to immediately report any such incident to the department without hesitation. Helpline Number: 1800 425 6300 (Available from 8 am to 8 pm on all working days) — **BMB**



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ಹಾರ್ದಿಕ ಶುಭಾಶಯಗಳು

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BWSSB proposes 5 new STPs to boost wastewater treatment

Proposed plants will use advanced technologies to reduce space and power requirements compared to traditional STPs, and allow sludge to be repurposed as compost, say officials

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In a major move to enhance Bengaluru's wastewater treatment capacity, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has submitted a proposal to the state government seeking approval to construct five new Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) at an estimated cost of Rs 2,000 crore. These new plants will add a cumulative treatment capacity of 385 million litres per day (MLD) to the city's existing infrastructure.

34 STPs currently operational

BWSSB currently manages over 11,894 km of underground drainage network, covering 110 villages and treating approximately 2,130 MLD of sewage daily. However, only 34 STPs with a combined capacity of 1,345 MLD are operational. To address the treatment gap, the board is actively working on expanding its infrastructure.

Additional plants underway

A BWSSB official said that at present, construction is underway on 20 STPs with a combined capacity of 470 MLD, at a cost of Rs 1,382 crore. "Additionally, tenders have been floated for nine more STPs with a total capacity of 140 MLD under World Bank assistance. The five newly proposed plants will raise the total treat-



BWSSB currently manages over 11,894 km of underground drainage network, covering 110 villages and treating approximately 2,130 MLD of sewage daily (File photo)

ment capacity to 2,343 MLD once operational," said the official.

Advanced technologies to be used

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials said that two of the proposed plants will use an advanced single-reactor system that processes sewage in multiple stages within the same tank, reducing space and power requirements compared to traditional STPs. The remaining three plants will use the Activated Sludge Process (ASP), a biological treatment method that uses bacteria and protozoa to remove

organic pollutants effectively. The resulting sludge can be repurposed as compost.

Low reuse of treated water

Out of the 1,348 MLD currently being treated, only about 750 MLD is being reused. Treated water is currently supplied to institutions such as the Indian Air Force, ITC, BEL, Bengaluru International Airport, and public parks like Lalbagh and Cubbon Park. Under the Koramangala-Challaghatta (KC) Valley project, BWSSB aims to supply 400 MLD of treated water to 145 lakes across

Locations and capacities of proposed STPs

Bellandur – 100 MLD
Mailasandra – 100 MLD
Doddabele – 60 MLD
Madivala – 75 MLD
One additional unit – 50 MLD
These plants are expected to be commissioned by the end of 2026

Kolar, Chikkaballapura, and rural Bengaluru. However, only 265 MLD is being supplied currently, with the remaining 135 MLD pending.

Government recognition and financial support

Sources said that the central government has granted BWSSB Rs 103 crore under the 'Jal Hi Amrit' programme as part of the Clean Water Credit initiative. This grant is meant for upgrading and modernising the 34 existing STPs. Some of these plants have already earned 5-star ratings from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

Awaiting government nod

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar stated that a proposal to set up five new STPs with a total capacity of 385 MLD has been submitted. "We hope to receive government approval soon as this expansion is crucial for meeting Bengaluru's growing wastewater management demands," he said.

Green technology at STPs to focus on sustainability

BWSSB plans to introduce solar sludge drying systems that will help produce both electricity and organic fertiliser from dried sewage sludge to make STPs financially self-sustaining

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In a move towards sustainability and self-reliance, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) is set to integrate green technologies into its Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) under the World Bank-supported Urban Water Security and Disaster Management project. The initiative will prioritise the scientific and sustainable management of wastewater through innovative models such as solar power generation and fertiliser production from sewage sludge.

Sludge drying systems in STPs

A BWSSB official said that solar panels will be installed to generate electricity at the Saul Kere STP. "In

Chikkabegur Lake, BWSSB plans to introduce solar sludge drying systems that will help produce both electricity and organic fertiliser from dried sewage sludge. The objective is to reduce dependency on external energy sources and make STPs financially self-sustaining," said the official.

Mega project to enhance water resilience

The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 1,323 crore — including a Rs 1,000 crore loan from the World Bank — aims to improve wastewater treatment, groundwater conservation, and flood control across Bengaluru. BWSSB has already prepared detailed project reports and is ready to begin implementation.

Nine new STPs are proposed under the project, with a major portion of the funds — about Rs 706 crore



— allocated for the Bommanahalli zone. The plan includes works like lake rejuvenation, laying of pipeline networks, lift pumping stations, and installation of green technology solutions at Saul Kere and a new 15 MLD unit at Chikkabegur.

Dual benefits through plants

A BWSSB official further explained that the solar sludge drying system will convert wet sewage by-products into reusable dry sludge using solar energy. This dried sludge can then be repurposed as organic fertiliser. If solar panels are also installed at these sites, they can simultaneously generate electricity to power the op-

The project, with an estimated cost of Rs 1,323 crore — including a Rs 1,000 crore loan from the World Bank — aims to improve wastewater treatment, groundwater conservation, and flood control across Bengaluru

erations, making the process both eco-friendly and cost-effective.

BWSSB is already generating 2.5 MW of electricity at five major STPs: two units (60 MLD and 150 MLD) at K&C Valley, 150 MLD at Vrishabhavathi Valley, 100 MLD at Hebbal, and 90 MLD at Bellandur — all using biogas. Building on this model, the agency now plans to set up a 500 kW biogas-powered unit at the upcoming 35 MLD STP in Anjanapura, Bommanahalli zone, under the World Bank project. — BMB

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Delayed construction RT Nagar



Despite starting two years ago, the white topping work on the main road of Rahmath Nagar, RT Nagar, is proceeding at a frustratingly slow pace.

Waste accumulation Indiranagar



Garbage dumped near the Indiranagar metro station is causing inconvenience and needs urgent cleaning.

Tree debris HRBR Layout



Felled trees left uncleared near 4th B Cross and 9th Main, First Block, Kalyan Nagar, HRBR Layout, have led to a serious mosquito problem. Immediate cleanup is requested.

Cops raid rowdy haunts

North Division police on Sunday launched surprise raids at the residences of known rowdy elements across 13 police station limits.

The operation, which began early on Sunday, saw officers fanning out under the supervision of senior officials to check on the activities of habitual offenders. The teams reviewed their movements, current jobs, if any, and verified whether the accused were attending court proceedings or skipping summons.

In the two-hour operation, police examined the profiles of 216 rowdies, also checking for pending warrants. Strong warnings were issued to several individuals, cautioning them against slipping back into crime or causing any law-and-order disturbances.

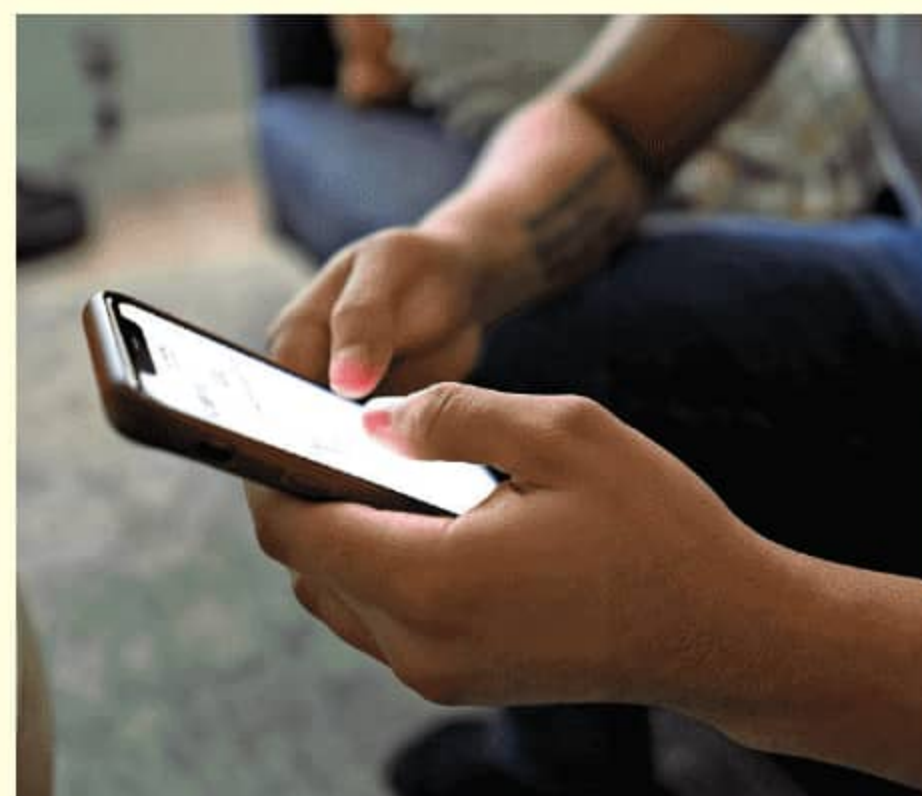
Rejected stalker attacks woman's kin

A 26-year-old man who couldn't accept rejection stabbed a relative of a married woman he had been stalking, after her family asked him to leave her alone.

The HAL police on Friday arrested the accused, identified as Selva Karthik, a sales executive working for a private vehicle manufacturer in Hosur. Originally from Krishnagiri, Karthik had befriended a 27-year-old woman from Kaggadasapura through Instagram a few months ago. Though the woman, who is married and lives with her husband, had cut off contact with him after sensing his obsessive behaviour, Karthik continued to harass her online and later started issuing threats.

In June, he allegedly turned up at her residence, demanding that she speak to him and threatening her with consequences if she didn't. Her husband and relatives managed to send him away, but Karthik continued to stalk and threaten her.

Distressed, the woman confided in her father, Shekar, who called Karthik and told him firmly to back off, reminding him that



HAL police arrest man for harassing married woman met on social media

his daughter was married and had a family. But the warning fell on deaf ears.

On Thursday, Karthik came to the city again, claiming he wanted to resolve the matter peacefully. Shekar, his brother-in-law Prashanth, and son-in-law Shiva agreed to

meet him and try to settle things. The trio picked Karthik up near Malleshpalya, riding on two scooters.

While on the way, Prashanth, who was riding with Karthik seated behind, screamed out in pain. Karthik had allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed him in the neck from behind. As Shekar and Shiva rushed to help, Karthik reportedly threatened them too before fleeing when bystanders gathered.

Prashanth was rushed to a nearby hospital and is currently being treated. Based on Shekar's complaint, HAL police registered a case of attempt to murder and tracked down Karthik near the border area while he had stopped for lunch at a roadside eatery.

According to police, it was a case of one-sided obsession. Karthik had allegedly demanded that the woman leave her husband and be with him. When she blocked him, he began stalking her and even created a scene at her home. Unable to bear the harassment, the woman sought help from her father, leading to the fateful confrontation.

Illegal party busted: minors, booze, e-cigarettes seized

Police raid city lounge, detaining four for hosting unlicensed party with alcohol, tobacco, and underage guests; crackdown follows rising underage vaping trend

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A weekend raid at a popular lounge in central Bengaluru has exposed a trend: the unchecked rise of substance use and vaping among minors under the guise of nightlife and private events. Acting on a tip-off, Cubbon Park police raided Wasabi Lounge on Rest House Road, arresting four individuals for organising an unlicensed party where tobacco and alcohol were being served in the presence of minors.

Acting on a tip-off, a team led by Cubbon Park police, with support from the SOCO team, raided Wasabi Lounge on Saturday. They detained a 25-year-old drug peddler, identified as Tushar Gowda, who was allegedly waiting for clients with a packet of cannabis weighing about 3 grams. Along with him, the pub manager Prasanna Das and two event organisers, Deepthi CA (23) and Atish Kumar Gowda (27), were also taken into custody.

Inside the premises, the police found more than 100 attendees, including 28 young men and women and 10 minors. Guests were found openly consuming alcohol and smoking cigarettes, and e-cigarettes without a designated smoking area. The presence of minors in such an environment, where harmful substances were readily available, raised serious concerns.

Though medical tests confirmed that none of the guests



Officials found the event lacked permits and sold passes on-site without verifying attendees' ages

“This raid is part of special drive. There's rise in the craze for vaping among minors, and we're taking strict action against pubs and lounges promoting it

—Official

had consumed narcotics, the presence of minors at a venue where tobacco and liquor were

being consumed violated multiple laws, including the NDPS Act, Karnataka Excise Act, and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA).

Officials also discovered that the event was organised without necessary permissions and that passes were being sold on-site to attendees, with no age verification in place. The accused in the Wasabi pub incident faces charges under multiple sections of law, and further investigations are underway.

“This raid is part of a special drive we launched after World

Tobacco Day. Whenever we get credible information about violations, especially involving minors or the use of e-cigarettes, we register cases immediately. There's a dangerous rise in the craze for vaping among minors, and we're taking strict action against pubs and lounges promoting it,” said an official from Cubbon Park Police speaking to BM, adding that stringent action against pubs, event organisers, or any establishment would be taken if found promoting or facilitating the use of such banned substances.

Crackdown leads to spike in cases

This incident comes on the heels of another complaint filed earlier this month regarding the illegal sale of banned e-cigarettes at a commercial outlet on Church Street. Officials from the Narcotics Control Bureau had flagged the sale of electronic nicotine delivery systems (ENDS) and warned of the growing trend among youth, who increasingly view e-cigarettes as a “safe” alternative to smoking, despite nationwide bans.

The official added that intensified drives have led to a sharp rise in cases booked under the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). In June 2025 alone, 1,198 cases were registered, the highest monthly tally this year, compared to 667 in May. In contrast, only 419 cases were booked during the same period last year. By the end of June 2024, the total stood at 1,139, already surpassed in just the first half of 2025.

Yellow line awaits CMRS nod

The eagerly awaited commercial operations of the 'Namma Metro' Yellow Line (RV Road to Bommasandra) are nearing launch. Sources indicate that Prime Minister Narendra Modi may inaugurate the line in August. Spanning 19.15 km with 16 stations, the line is awaiting just one final step—approval from the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS). The inspection is tentatively scheduled between July 22 and 25, according to sources.

All other necessary certifications, including the Independent Safety Assessment (ISA) for signalling systems, have already been secured. On Thursday, the Italian state-owned agency—working in collaboration with Siemens India Ltd and Siemens AG, the Yellow Line's signalling contractors—issued the final ISA certificate. Now, only the CMRS clearance remains.

During the inspection, the CMRS will assess various components, including the tracks, signalling systems, sub-systems, viaducts, physical infrastructure, station facilities, and other basic amenities. Based on this report and consultations with both state and central governments, operational approval will be granted, officials confirmed. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) has prepared three potential operation models: full operations with 16 stations and 24 train services, partial operations with only 7 key stations between RV Road and Bommasandra.

—BMB

Floating solar panels power lakes

The State Government is moving forward with an ambitious plan to install floating solar panels on large lakes that hold water year-round. A feasibility report prepared by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has given a green light to this initiative, which aims to generate solar energy, reduce lake maintenance costs, promote fisheries, and protect lake boundaries from encroachments. In preparation for implementation, the Minor Irrigation Department is finalising guidelines, including contract duration and technical specifications.

The plan targets 40 expansive lakes across Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Chitradurga, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru South, all of which fall under the Cauvery river basin and other lift irrigation schemes. These lakes, selected for their capacity to retain at least 50% water year-round, are expected to collectively generate up to 2,000 MW of power. The electricity will be fed into the grid, supported by existing substation infrastructure in the region.

—BMB

Missing women, skull find push SIT into Dharmasthala

Decades-old allegations of disappearances and sexual violence in Dharmasthala prompt Special Investigation Team probe after fresh testimonies and renewed calls from activists

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After decades of unanswered questions and alleged police inaction, the Karnataka government has finally constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe chilling allegations of mass graves, sexual violence, and disappearances of women and students in the Dharmasthala region of Dakshina Kannada. The move, formalised in a Government Order (GO) on Saturday and made public on Sunday, comes after mounting pressure from activists, lawyers, and families who have long accused authorities of ignoring systemic abuse in the region over the past two decades.

The decision follows a letter from the Karnataka State Commission for Women to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, urging a thorough, impartial probe. In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Siddaramaiah confirmed the SIT's formation, citing "serious allegations raised in court and media," including the discovery of a human skull and a court deposition by a man who claimed he had buried over a hundred bodies, many of them women and minors.

"Given the gravity of unnatural deaths, rapes, and disappearances, a Special Investigation Team has been constituted to investigate not just the Dharmasthala case but all related cases across the state," Siddaramaiah said.

SIT composition and mandate

The SIT is headed by Dr Pranav Mohanty, DGP, Internal Security Division, and includes DIG MN Anucheth, DCP Sowmyalatha, and SP



Sources said the SIT will get support from Dakshina Kannada police and must submit regular updates to the state

Jitendra Kumar Dayama. The team will investigate the case registered at Dharmasthala Police Station under Section 211(A) of the BNS, as well as all related and future cases across Karnataka. The DGP and IGP will transfer all relevant cases and provide additional personnel.

Sources said that the SIT will operate with logistical support from the Dakshina Kannada District Police Office. It is also required to submit periodic updates to the DGP and, ultimately, provide a comprehensive investigation report to the state government through the DGP at the earliest opportunity.

What triggered probe?

The formation of the SIT follows a formal request from Karnataka State Women's Commission Chairperson Nagalakshmi Choudhary. Her recommendation was based on a court

statement by an individual who alleged that "hundreds of bodies were buried in the Dharmasthala area."

Adding to the urgency were recent media reports of a human skull being discovered and troubling accounts from the family of a missing medical student. The Commission noted that these reports, along with court testimonies, suggested "a disturbing pattern of abuse, unnatural deaths, and disappearances of women and female students over the past 20 years."

In a letter dated July 14, the Karnataka State Women's Commission urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to order a high-level SIT probe, stating that the allegations indicated serial and systemic crimes, including murder, rape, and enforced disappearances, that had been allegedly hushed for nearly two decades.

The commission noted that many earlier complaints of missing girls and

women from the Dharmasthala area were either ignored, closed prematurely, or dismissed without proper investigation. It raised the possibility that these were not isolated incidents, but part of a larger, coordinated effort involving influential individuals and compromised law enforcement.

Allegations

Earlier this month, a man, reportedly a sanitation worker at a religious institution, alleged he had buried over a hundred bodies, many of them women and minors, around Dharmasthala over several years. His identity remains protected due to security concerns.

Following his claim, a woman filed a formal complaint stating her daughter, a medical student, went missing over 20 years ago and may be among the buried. She alleged that when she approached the police in 2003, her complaint was dismissed with the claim that her daughter had likely eloped.

The story gained momentum after the discovery of a human skull near the Nethravathi River on July 12, which multiple media reports linked to the whistleblower's revelations. Several other families have since come forward with similar cases of missing women.

A case was registered under Section 211(A) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita at Dharmasthala Police Station. However, civil society groups and lawyers representing the whistleblower allege local police attempted to discredit him, seeking a psychiatric evaluation instead of treating him as a protected witness.

For long-silenced families and rights groups, the SIT formation is a long-overdue move and a potential turning point in uncovering what many believe is a deeply buried truth.

Forest rights clash in Nagarhole

Various citizen groups gathered to issue an open letter outside the Wildlife Conservation Society office in Bengaluru, voicing their concerns about the ongoing conflicts within the Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

The letter supported 52 families from Karadikallu in their quest for forest rights recognition. The signatories criticised 'the historical violence and threats the communities continue to face in the name of conservation' and described the Forest Department's actions as intentional efforts to withhold community rights. On June 18, approximately 250 Forest Department officials, accompanied by police and armed special tiger task force members, destroyed six temporary shelters belonging to Jenukuruba tribal families in Karadikallu. This action followed the tribals' return to Nagarhole Tiger Reserve forests in May 'to reclaim their ancestral land'.

The Jenukurubas have been engaged in an extended conflict with Forest Department officials who, they claim, have consistently denied their Forest Rights Act claims. "Underlying these actions is a model of conservation witnessed in Nagarhole over the past decades, touted nationally and globally as a 'successful model', led by organisations like Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and prominent conservationists Ullas Karanth, Krithi Karanth, late KM Chinappa, that is viciously anti-people and anti-environment," stated the letter, suggesting that this approach has transformed Nagarhole into a militarised conflict zone. — BMB



Toll protest

In a protest that's part street theatre, part serious showdown, MLA Karemma G Naik turned a toll booth into her campsite, quite literally! Furious over the continued operation of an allegedly unscientific toll gate at Kakargal—despite promises from ministers to remove it—the legislator staged an overnight dharna, sleeping on the road with her supporters. The drama unfolded after a KDP meeting, where Karemma called out the toll collection between Tintani Bridge and Kalamala Cross—two gates within just 40 km. Though ministers had assured action, the toll remained intact. Spotting the booth still in business on her return, the MLA ditched the red tape and hit the ground running—blankets, frustration, and all—accusing the government of empty promises.

Following footsteps

Home Minister Dr G Parameshwar defended Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's decision to release ₹50 crore each for development works in ruling party MLAs' constituencies,

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

saying, "We are only following what the BJP did when they were in power." Speaking to reporters on Saturday, he explained that earlier, the BJP had given ₹50 crore to their MLAs, but the opposition Congress MLAs had received just ₹25 crore, ₹20 crore, or ₹15 crore. "We're simply continuing that practice," he added.

Tense talks

Mysore turned into a drama hotspot when Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar suddenly dashed off the stage mid-event, sparking curiosity about his abrupt exit—rumours say he rushed to Delhi on private business. Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah got visibly miffed for not mentioning DK's name during his speech, snapping that you only mention those still on stage, not the ones who've left early. Adding to the theatrics, Mallikarjun Kharge chided Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa for "feeding too

much info" into the CM's ear during the speech, telling him to zip it while Mahadevappa just smiled sheepishly.

No bad blood, just old drama

It was a surprise reunion as both Sriramulu and Janardhana Reddy shared the dais. Former minister B Sriramulu, in his signature no-nonsense style, quipped that he and Janardhan Reddy are back on the same page—no feuds, no friction, just forgotten words from a heated past. "We both spoke out of turn back then, but that's all water under the bridge," he said, adding that unity is the need of the hour if the BJP wants to return to power. Not just Reddy-Ramulu, he promised to bring everyone under one umbrella for the elections. As for the BJP's state president post, Sriramulu waved off any buzz about change, saying there's no vacancy yet. Taking a dig at Congress, he claimed

the real fight isn't in the BJP but between Siddu and DK Shivakumar—implying that unless a Dalit face like Kharge or Satish Jarkiholi is brought forward, the infighting will rage on. With Delhi's high command pulling strings, he cheekily questioned if Karnataka's real CM is Siddaramaiah or Surjewala!

DC's car seized

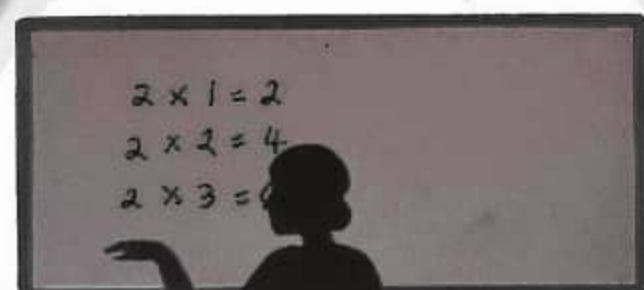
In a plot twist straight out of a courtroom drama, the Belagavi Deputy Commissioner's official car was seized on Friday after the government failed to cough up ₹1.34 crore (with interest!) to a contractor for a barrage built on the Doodhganga river way back in the 1990s. Narayan Ganesh Kamath, the contractor, had sued the Minor Irrigation Department in 1995 for non-payment, despite their promising cement and funds. Though the court had ordered ₹34 lakh to be paid, endless appeals and government delays saw the amount balloon, and now, nearly 30 years later, the long arm of the law has driven off with the DC's ride! — Sridhar Vivan



BM SIMPLY PUT

Today we look at why Karnataka's teachers get all the blame, but not much time to teach

Cutting class



The role of teachers in non-academic duties like elections has sparked fresh debate in Karnataka. Every time student results fall short, teachers are blamed for poor teaching. But in reality, they get less than 161 teaching days in a year, with most of their time consumed by non-teaching responsibilities. **-BMB**

What are the main non-teaching tasks assigned to teachers?

Teachers are burdened with multiple non-teaching tasks such as census, election duties, exam supervision, and mid-day meal management. They're also involved in distributing textbooks, attending official events, and handling daily digital reporting.

How is the teacher shortage affecting education quality?

Karnataka has over 61,000 vacant teaching posts across primary and high schools. Many schools operate with a single teacher handling multiple roles, reducing teaching time and negatively impacting student learning outcomes.

What about Saturdays? Are they fully utilized for teaching?

No. Government schools have half-day classes on Saturdays, which further cuts into the already limited instructional time. Originally introduced due to village market schedules, this practice is now being questioned for its relevance and scientific basis.

How does digital work affect classroom time?

Daily online data entry—especially attendance and meal updates—consumes valuable classroom time. Frequent internet connectivity issues in rural areas further delay this process, leaving teachers with less time to teach.

What is the demand from education experts and teachers?

There's a rising demand to increase school working days, relieve teachers from non-teaching duties, and let them focus solely on classroom instruction to boost learning outcomes.---

What action is expected from the government?

Experts urge the Karnataka government to undertake a serious study to reform the academic calendar, fill vacant teaching posts, and relieve teachers from non-academic duties. Only then can the state hope to reverse the decline in educational standards.

Why is the quality of school education in Karnataka deteriorating?

While flawed teaching methods are often blamed, the real issue is that teachers are increasingly burdened with non-teaching tasks. This affects their ability to focus on classroom instruction, especially in Kannada-medium schools where students are falling behind even in core subjects.

Do teachers have enough time to teach during the academic year?

Not really. Out of 365 days, only 161 days are effectively available for teaching after accounting for holidays, exams, training sessions, administrative duties, and casual leave. That means over 200 days are lost to non-teaching duties, training, and holidays.

Fake investment website prompts FIR

The East Division Cyber Crime Police have registered an FIR against unknown persons for creating a fake investment platform in the name of 'Premji Invest', misleading investors by misusing the identity of the reputed private investment arm of Azim Premji.

The complaint, filed by Shivanshu Puhani, Lead Counsel and authorised signatory of Premji Investment Advisory LLP, stated that neither the company nor its affiliates provide investment advice to the public and have no official digital presence except a LinkedIn profile.

The fraud came to light when unsuspecting users alerted the firm about a suspicious domain, premjiex.com, promising unrealistic returns while falsely claiming a portion of the proceeds go to the Azim Premji Foundation. Investigations revealed the accused were offering stock market tips using fake identities and images of the company's management, even running WhatsApp groups and launching a mobile app named PREMJIEX, which has already seen over 100 downloads.

The impersonation includes the use of the firm's registration number and misuse of public domain content to add credibility. The police have booked the accused under Sections 66 and 66C of the IT Act for dishonestly using digital identities. The company has issued public warnings and urged the police to dismantle all fake digital platforms and trace those behind the scam.

The Police said they are verifying the members who have enrolled in the investment and also trying to track down the accused based on the IP address.

-BMB

Dams' repair work after panel submits report: DKS

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Sunday said that repair works at the state's dams would be taken up on a priority basis once the technical committee on dam safety submits its report.

Addressing reporters after offering Bagina at Kabini reservoir, Shivakumar said, "We had set up a technical committee on dam safety after one of the gates at Tunga Bhadra reservoir was damaged. We will take necessary action once we receive the report."

"We offered Bagina today. Kabini was not full for the last two years, but it is full this year. Kabini has been of great help during poor rain years. Our MLAs have given a proposal to develop the area. During the Cabinet meeting at Male Mahadeshwara Hills, we approved projects worth Rs 35 crore. We have also submitted a DPR for a drip irrigation project at a cost of Rs 88 crore," he said.

Asked if there was a plan to conduct Kabini Utsava, he said, "A proposal is there, and we will discuss it with the district in charge minister and others. Kabini Utsava and Cauvery aarti are planned. Our government is committed to generating employment opportunities through tourism."

-ANI

Plea filed 53 years after land acquisition rejected

The Karnataka High Court has rejected a petition contesting property acquisition, filed 53 years after the initial notification was issued by the former City Improvement Trust Board, which preceded the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA).

Justice M Nagaprasanna stated that the petitioner failed to prove any existing title to the site or demonstrate its exclusion from acquisition.

Venu, residing in Sheshadripuram, contested the BDA's e-auction notice dated September 16, 2023, for a 1,950 sqft property in HAL 3rd stage layout. He asserted continuous possession since his purchase on October 4, 1995.

The BDA confirmed the land was included in the initial notification for HAL III Stage development on September 22, 1970, with final notification issued on July 15, 1971. They contended that the petitioner had not purchased the site and was disputing the 1971 acquisition in 2023.

Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that petition documents failed to establish the original landowner Kenchamma's sale to the petitioner.



The court noted that despite careful wording, the petition essentially challenged the notification.

"If this is the tenor of the pleading, it is clear that the petitioner is wanting to challenge the acquisition on the score that HAL Scheme has lapsed. The prayer also is indirectly to that effect. It is trite, what one cannot do overtly, cannot be permitted to be done covertly, under

the shelter of legal sophistry," the court said.

The court referenced Supreme Court rulings regarding subsequent purchasers' standing to contest acquisition proceedings after preliminary or final notifications.

"If one has purchased a property subsequent to acquisition, it would be at their peril. With the law being as clear as noon day, it would not require this Court to delve into the matter, except a re-look at the dates and events," Justice Nagaprasanna said.

The court concluded, "...the preliminary notification is issued on 22-09-1970 and final notification is issued on 15-07-1971. The petitioner who purchases the property that is already subject matter of acquisition, 25 years after the acquisition on 04-10-1995, has now approached this Court after 53 years of acquisition on 29-09-2023. With the dates and events being thus, the law declared by the Apex Court would squarely become applicable to the facts obtained in the case at hand, to hold that the petitioner ostensibly being a subsequent purchaser, cannot be seen to be having a right to challenge the acquisition proceedings." **-BMB**

2.3 lakh dog bite cases in 6 months in State

In the past six months, Karnataka has recorded more than 2.3 lakh dog bite cases and 19 rabies deaths, indicating a sharp increase compared to the corresponding period last year, according to official data released on Sunday.

In all of 2024, the state reported 3.6 lakh dog bite cases and 42 rabies deaths.

According to data shared by the State Health Department's Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) with PTI,

Karnataka registered 2,31,091 dog bite cases and 19 rabies deaths between January 1 and June 30 this year.

In comparison, the same period last year saw 1,69,672 dog bite cases and 18 rabies deaths. **PTI**

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I Huli Gowda S/o Nanje Gowda R/o Hampi Nivas, Hoysala Street, Nehru Nagar, Belur, Hassan, Karnataka 573115 have changed my name to D N Anil Kumar for all purposes

I, MANJUNATH Resident At Plot No 18, Laxmi Narayan Sadan, Near Jewargi Road, Behind Patha Shala, Sai Ram Nagar, Gulbarga- 585102, have changed my name to M A N J U N A T H SRINIVASACHARYA JOSHI vide affidavit dated: 16.07.2025 before notary D. Sarala Kumari, Bengaluru.

I Gautham Srinivas S/O, Srinivas Shankarappa R/o No 1993/1, Nehru Road, St Thomas Town Post, Aravinda Nagar, Bangalore-560084, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Sagar Srinivas.

I, Beena Prashanthan R/o No.72, Variyath Mithila nagar, Ramasandra, Sulikere, Bengaluru 560060 have changed my name to Beena Bala Sekhar (Beena B S) Affidavit Dt.19/07/2025 notary H R Karunakara, Bluru

I, Swetha Karthik w/o Karthik Kumaraswamy R/o 518, Flat.001, Achuth Paradise, 27th Cross, Ideal Homes RR nagar, Bengaluru 560098 have changed my name to Swetha Vidyannath Affidavit Dt.19/07/2025 notary Harisha G, Bluru

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251 cases booked against peddlers this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Whether they stay in suburban areas or not, they will have a separate primary occupation so that they appear to be doing something else," said Superintendent of Police for Bengaluru Rural CK Baba.

In the last six months alone, police teams have unearthed 338 drug dens operating in various parts of Bengaluru city and suburban areas. Among these, 251 cases were booked against peddlers, in which 337 were Indian drug peddlers and the rest 19 were foreigners. Investigations have also revealed that rural homes are being used as storage and distribution and hiding points. From there, the drugs are discreetly transported to cities using courier services, geolocation or by hand through local contacts.

For instance, on July 6, Rajanukunte police arrested two Nigerian nationals in Bengaluru Rural and seized drugs worth ₹4.5 crore. They raided a rented house in Addiganahalli and found MDMA, hydro ganja, and cash.

The duo, who had overstayed their visas, was caught after being seen acting suspiciously. In this case, according to the police, the accused smuggled drugs concealed within ready-made garments. They had hidden the contraband inside the cardboard supports used in shirts and trousers. After smuggling the drugs into the city, they repacked the substance into smaller quantities at their rented accommodation.

"They transport drugs through various means. These evolving tactics can include packing it in a small packet, throwing it at a particular location, and leaving. They then share the location with the consumers, who have to pick it up. It's a little deep-rooted," said a police official.

Commenting on the same case the official said they are keeping a close watch, staying on high alert, and

ensuring that those involved in criminal activities are caught and booked. "We have our own intelligence, and our police officials remain highly alert during their patrols.

The recent case involving 4.5 kg of drugs was solely due to the alertness of the officer on duty. The drug peddlers were dressed in security-like uniforms, which made the officer curious about how they could be working in a security role. Police officials followed them to their destination, checked the house, and found that, alongside garments and other items, drugs were being transported and sold," said Baba.

He called this the largest narcotics seizure in Bengaluru Rural and suggested a larger syndicate may be involved. He also said that the accused often disguise themselves in outfits resembling airport security uniforms to avoid raising suspicion.

According to police officers data, In 2024, a total of 495 cases were registered, leading to narcotics valued at ₹97.69 crore and in 2023 a total of 3,443 cases were reported. Police officials arrested 694 individuals, including 61 foreign nationals.

Apart from this in 2024, 69 cases were registered against foreigners involved in illegal activities and 104 individuals were arrested. 252 foreigners were deported.

Recent cases reveal a surge in drug supply across Bengaluru, with several involving foreign nationals in peddling. On May 20, Amruthahalli Police arrested a foreign national near a vacant lot in Dasarahalli and seized 3 kg of MDMA crystals worth ₹3 crore. On June 3, the Central Crime Branch (CCB) seized narcotics worth over ₹60 lakh from an apartment in Sampigehalli. Most recently, on June 12, acting on specific intelligence, CCB's Narcotics Control Unit arrested a long-time foreign drug peddler in K Dommasandra and seized 600 grams of MDMA crystals worth ₹1.2 crore.

Concrete takeover has wiped out the green

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The GIS-based study showed that there has been an evident transformation in land cover across the city. This increase was particularly prominent in the 1993-2003 and 2013-2023 decades, with minimal growth from 2003 to 2013.

The study conducted by researchers from Christ University and Qatar University took into account the impact of factors such as air temperature, relative humidity, and wind speed on land surface temperature.

The analysis title 'Remotely Sensed Analysis of Land Cover and its Impact on Summer Outdoor Thermal Comfort in the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area (1993 – 2023)' further shows that while the Bengaluru Metropolitan Area earlier had cooler temperatures, it has changed drastically over time. With increased urbanisation, a surge in land surface temperature is being noticed, which is also due to increased energy consumption, leading to higher levels of carbon dioxide.

Between 1993 and 2003, the city

experienced a significant increase in built-up areas, and a cooling effect was observed between 2003 and 2013, mainly due to a surge in vegetation and surface water bodies. However, in the following decade (2013 to 2023), built-up areas surged further and green cover declined, both reaching peak levels.

Researchers say Bangalore's rising land surface temperature is a challenge that needs immediate attention. Expanding green cover through urban forests, developing vertical gardens, and green roofs are some measures to mitigate LST in the city, experts suggest.

"Elevated land surface temperature not only affects the environment but also has social and health implications, impacting the physical and mental well-being of residents. Areas experiencing extreme heat stress are particularly vulnerable to children and the elderly, emphasising the need to involve communities in urban planning. Public awareness campaigns on sustainable urban practices can also be used to mitigate the LST effect," noted the study.

₹12,800: Wages of labour

Convention throws light on working conditions in garment industry, demands better pay for workers, repealing of labour codes

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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The Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU) held a convention where hundreds of workers gathered to expose the grim realities of their working conditions and to issue a warning to the government: End wage discrimination, ensure dignified working conditions and repeal the labour codes.

A book titled 'A Life with Needle and Thread' was released, shedding light on the systemic exploitation faced by garment workers and their ongoing resistance. Authored by Dr R Prathibha, President of the Garment and Textile Workers Union (GATWU), the book examines how garment companies have reaped profits by exploiting workers, while successive governments have enabled and sustained this exploitation. It also chronicles the determined struggles of garment workers through the Garment and Textile Workers Union, through collective organising and protest, have compelled companies and the state to recognise and uphold their rights.

Prathibha said, "Despite being the backbone of an industry that contributes significantly to this country's export economy, garment



File photo from 2019 of a protest by garment workers demanding better pay

workers are paid among the lowest minimum wages. All the workers are women workers." She pointed out that while workers in other scheduled industries receive a minimum wage of around Rs 18,000, garment workers are still stuck at Rs 12,800. The recent minimum wage notification issued in April 2025 excluded industries like garments where women are concentrated, proposing minimum wages of Rs 25,000 for others industries, she noted.

Nirmala, State Vice-President of AICTU, declared the convention a warning to the government. "If the

discrimination against garment workers continues—if they are left out of wage revisions and forced into unsafe, exploitative working conditions—garment workers will take to the streets and take their rights," she said.

Clifton D' Rozario, Vice-President AICTU, spoke about the historical fights of garment workers. "From the struggle of workers for an 8 hour work shift that we now celebrate as International Working Women's Day to the fight against the amendment to the Employees Provident Fund Act which forced the Union Government to withdraw the same, garment workers have stood in the forefront of struggle to demand dignified working conditions," he said.



AROUND THE WORLD

Tech company CEO resigns after concert video

The IT company CEO captured in a widely circulated video showing him embracing an employee at a Goldplay concert has resigned. Andy Byron resigned from his job as CEO of Cincinnati-based Astronomer Inc., according to a statement posted on LinkedIn by the company Saturday. "Astronomer is committed to the values and culture that have guided

us since our founding. Our leaders are expected to set the standard in both conduct and accountability, and recently, that standard was not met," the company said in its post on LinkedIn. The move comes a day after the company said that Byron had been placed on leave and the board of directors had launched a formal investigation into the jumbotron incident, which went viral. A company spokesman later confirmed in a statement to AP that it was Byron and Astronomer chief people officer Kristin Cabot in the video. AP

Harsh: Japan PM on poll results

Japan's shaky ruling coalition is likely to lose control of the upper house, exit polls showed after Sunday's election, potentially heralding political turmoil as a tariff deadline with the United States looms. While the ballot does not directly determine whether Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba's minority government falls, it heaps pressure on the embattled leader who also lost control of the more powerful lower house in October. Ishiba's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and coalition partner

Komeito need 50 seats to secure the 248-seat upper chamber in an election where half the seats were up for grabs. They are forecast to hold 32 to 51 seats, the exit poll by public broadcaster NHK showed. If the coalition drops below 46 seats, it would mark its worst result since it was formed in 1999. That comes on top of its worst showing in 15 years in October's lower house election, a vote which has left Ishiba's administration vulnerable to no-confidence motions. Speaking after polls closed to public broadcaster NHK, Ishiba said he "solemnly" accepted the "harsh result". Reuters

Pope condemns attack on church

Pope Leo XIV has strongly condemned an Israeli attack on Gaza's only Catholic church, which killed three people on Thursday. During his Sunday Angelus prayer, the Pope expressed his deep sorrow and appealed for an end to the "barbarity of war," AL Jazeera reported.

He urged the international community to "observe humanitarian law and respect the obligation to protect civilians", emphasising the need to avoid collective punishment, indiscriminate force, and forced displacement. "As well as the prohibition of collective punishment, of indiscriminate use of force and forced displacement of the population," he added. Agencies

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How to check your mutual fund KYC status

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New KYC rules for mutual fund investors

The new rules for Know-Your-Customer (KYC) standards for mutual funds, which came into effect on April 1, 2024, impact how easily a person can invest in mutual fund schemes. ET Online

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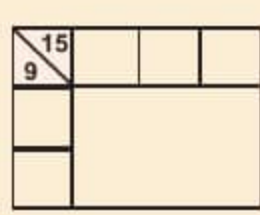
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 PVR-INNOX CINEMAS (PVR) - FORUM MALL Kormangala | ORION MALL Yeshwantpur | PHOENIX MARKET CITY K.R. Puram | MSR REGALIA Thanisandra | VEGA CITY MALL Bannerghatta Road | V.R. MALL K.R. Puram | VAISHNAVI SAPPHIRE MALL Tumkur Road | SPIRIT MALL Sarjapur Road | AURA CINEMAS Whitefield | GT WORLD MALL Magadi Road | UPTOWN OMR MALL Old Madras Road | SUPERPLEX FALCON CITY Kanakpura Road | BHARTIYA CITY Kannuru | DIRECTORS CUT REX M.G. Road | GLOBAL MALL Mysore Road | FORUM MALL Mysore | GARUDA MALL Mysore | FIZA MALL Mangalore | INNOX - GARUDA Magarath Road | MANTRI Mallseswaram | SWAGATH Jayanagar | CENTRAL J.P. Nagar | LIDO Ulsoor | VALUE MALL Whitefield | BROOKFIELD Marathalli | RMZ Yelahanka | GARUDA Yelahanka | SBR HORIZON K.R. Puram | MANIPAL Manipal | SATYAM Mysore | CENTRO Mysore | S MALL Tumkur Road | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS (MEENAKSHI MALL Bannerghatta Road | SHANTHINIKETAN Whitefield | ORION EAST MALL Banaswadi | LULU MALL TRD Rajajinagar | ETA MALL Binnyet | SJR SPECTRUM Arekere | CITY CENTRE MALL (Mangalore) | MOVIE TIME CINEMAS (RR Nagar | Davangere | Bellary) | BHARATH CINEMAS (Mangalore) | GOPALAN CINEMAS (INNOVATION MALL Dairy Circle | GRAND MALL Old Madras Road | ARCH MALL Mysore Road | LEGACY Mysore Road | CINEPHELI (HSR Layout) | INNOVATIVE MULTIPLEX (Marathalli) | NEW FANGLED CINEMA (MG Road) | MIRAJ CINEMAS (Sunkadakatte) | V CINEMAS (Ram Murthy Nagar) | DRC CINEMA (Mysore) | NARTAKI THEATRE (K.G. Road) | SWAGATH SHANKARNAG (M.G. Road).
 a yash raj films worldwide release

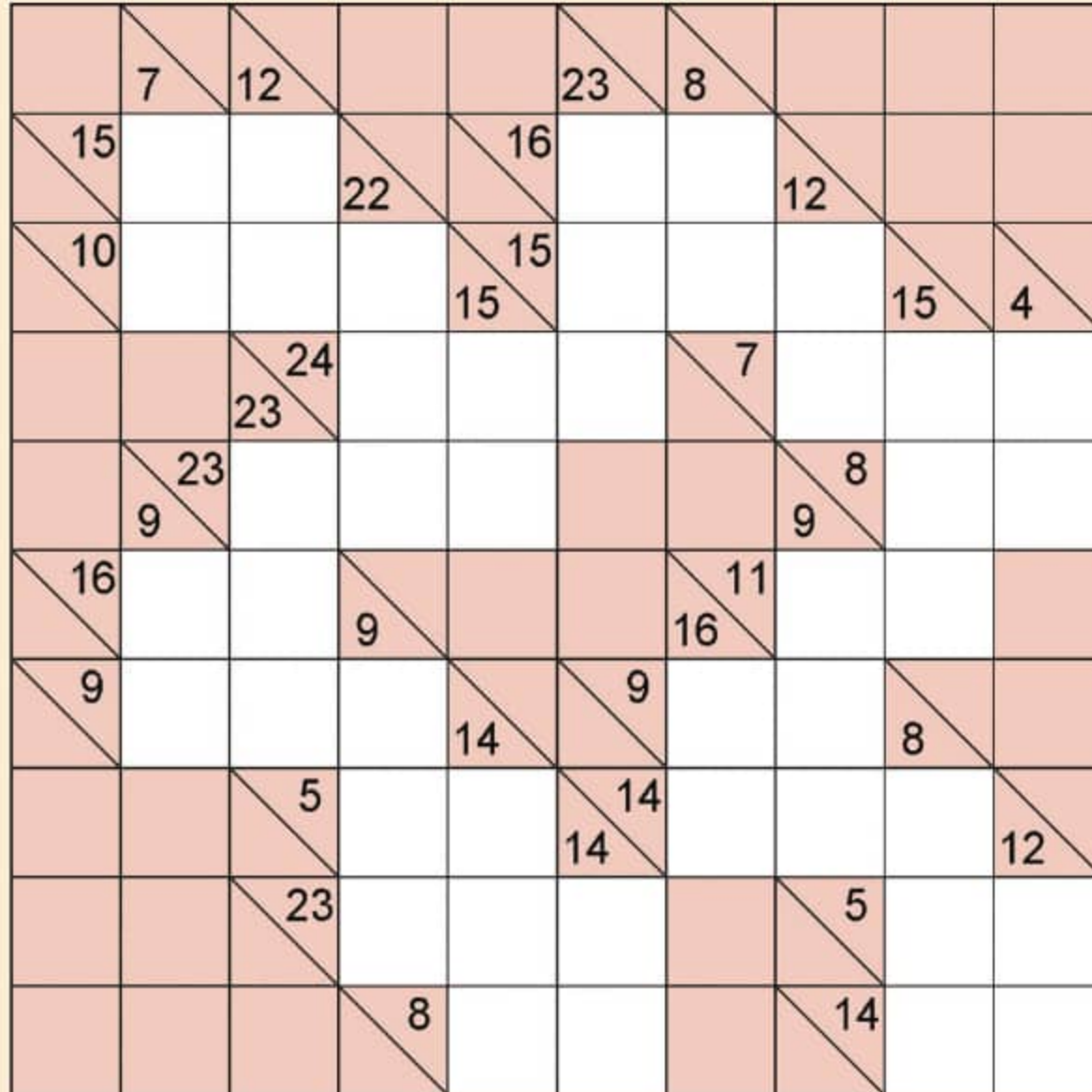
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

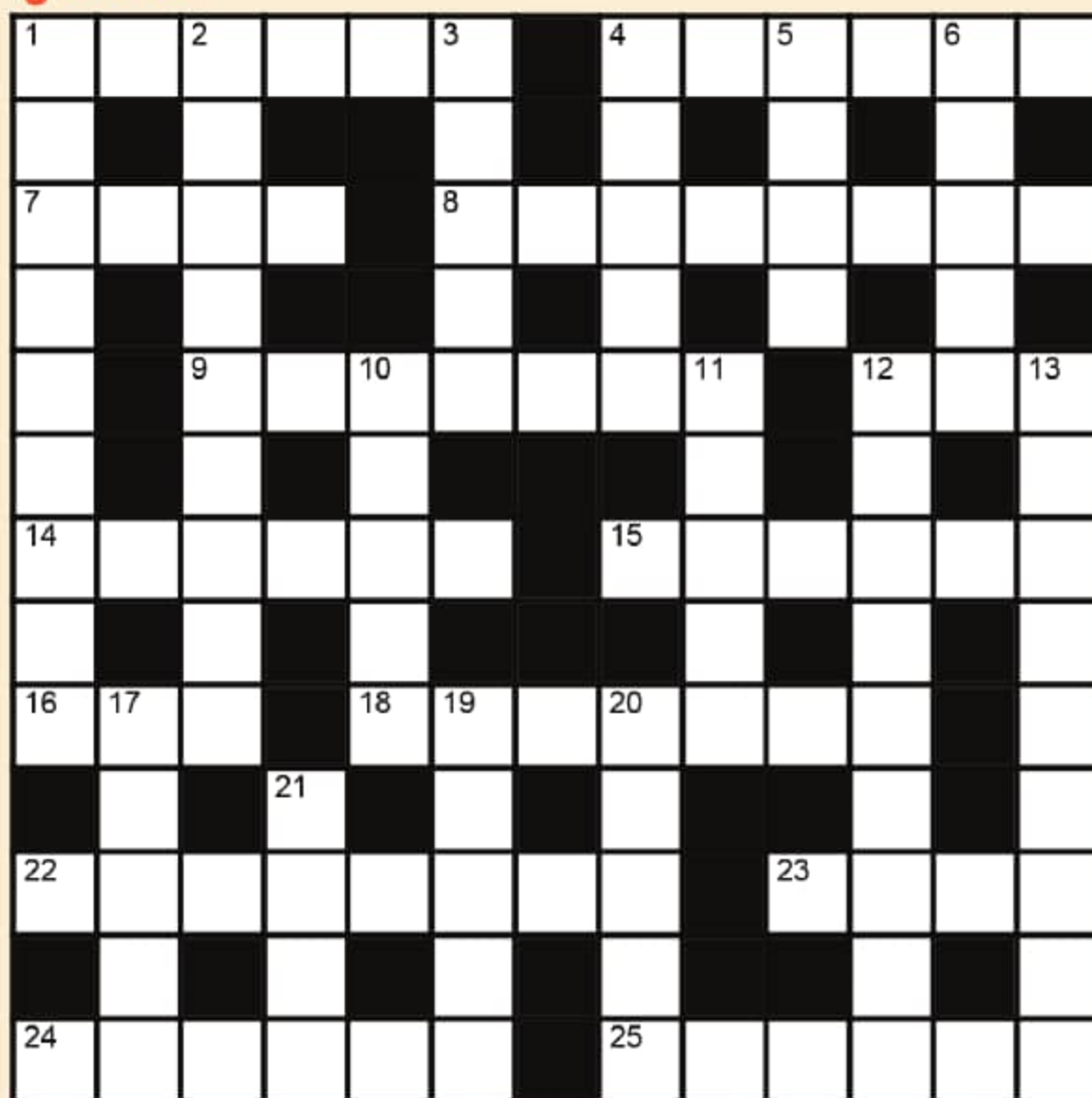


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

- 1 Expects (6)
- 4 Female relative (6)
- 7 Mandatory last name for a Sikh lady (4)
- 8 With an ____ : in a generous or unconcealed way? (4,4)
- 9 Insinuates or suggests (7)
- 12 By way of (3)
- 14 Maker of garments (6)
- 15 Column; post (6)
- 16 The Big Blue (3)
- 18 Grade or level (7)
- 22 Greek maiden of legend (8)
- 23 Italian painter Guido—"rine" anagram? (4)
- 24 Breathe in (6)
- 25 Derrick (3,3)

DOWN

- 1 River that crosses paths with the South Pennar river at Nandi Hills (9)
- 2 Silvery metal (9)
- 3 Backless seat (5)
- 4 Military blockade (5)
- 5 London district (4)
- 6 Boredom (5)
- 10 Establish as true (5)
- 11 Expertness or practised ability (5)
- 12 Offer freely to do something (9)
- 13 Stopping further growth of (9)
- 17 Conductor's stick (5)
- 19 Boat to paddle (5)
- 20 Muse for the poets? (5)
- 21 Entreaty (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: D EQUALS G
TCYROFHIVUG TSFIDV QSVHU
TCYROFHIQG, PJQ QSVL IVZVU
UVXJTV QSV FYCJIQ CB QHYV
GRVIQ HI TCYROFHIHD.



Linemaro

I am not a photographer. But I can picture you and me together



Mindchow

He that is not handsome at 20, nor strong at 30, nor rich at 40, nor wise at 50, will never be handsome, strong, rich or wise



Joke of the day

Not only is life a bitch, it has puppies

Loop

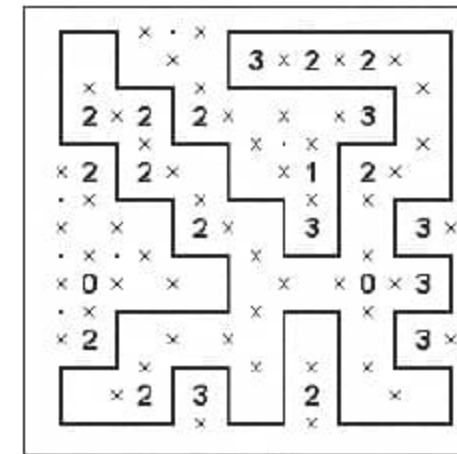
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

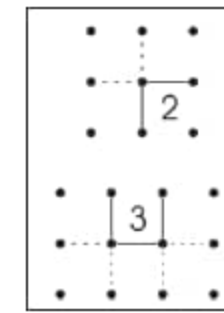
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

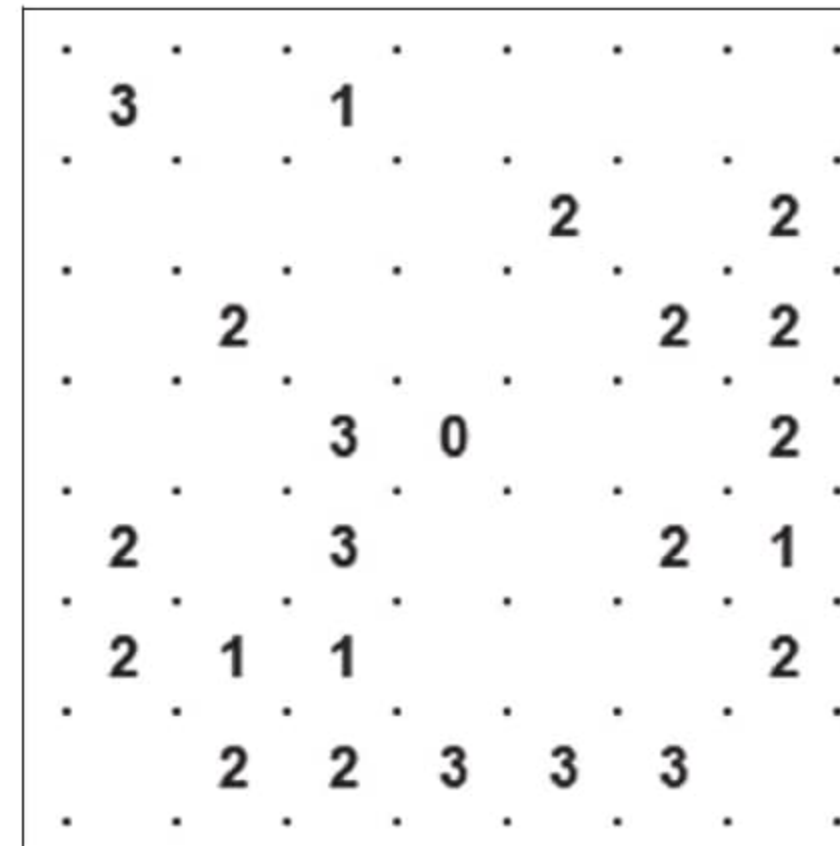
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



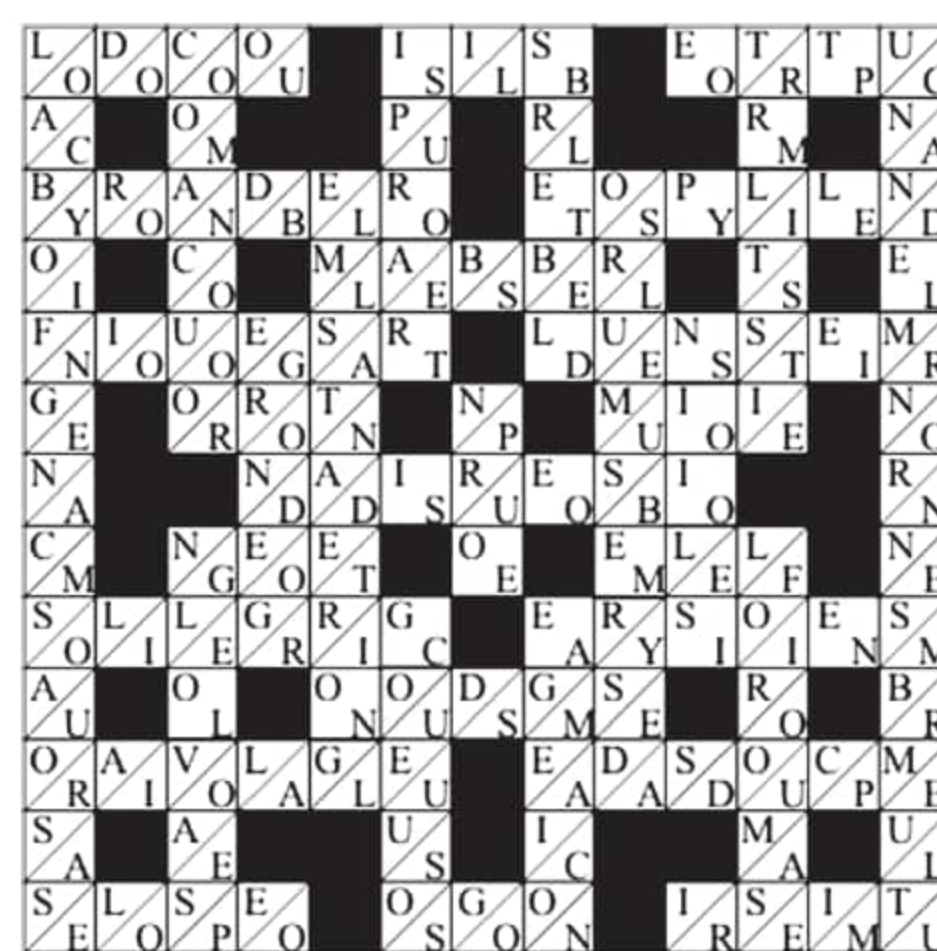
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



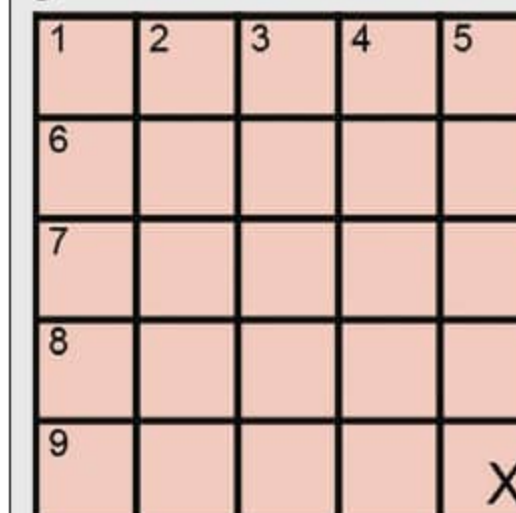
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

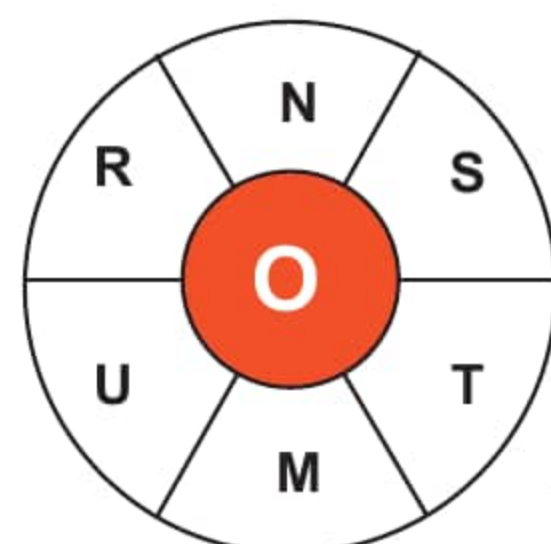
- 1 Cadet; 6 Helot;
- 7 E teen; 8 Lamia;
- 9 Calx I

DOWN

- 1 Tacit; 2 Leach;
- 3 Talon; 4 Emile;
- 5 Ted ax

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Easy

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

2 7 7 8 = 6

Medium

2 4 4 6 = 4

Hard

1 4 6 9 = 32

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Drawers are different. 3. Hat is smaller. 4. Mirror is larger. 5. Plant is moved. 6. Purse is different.

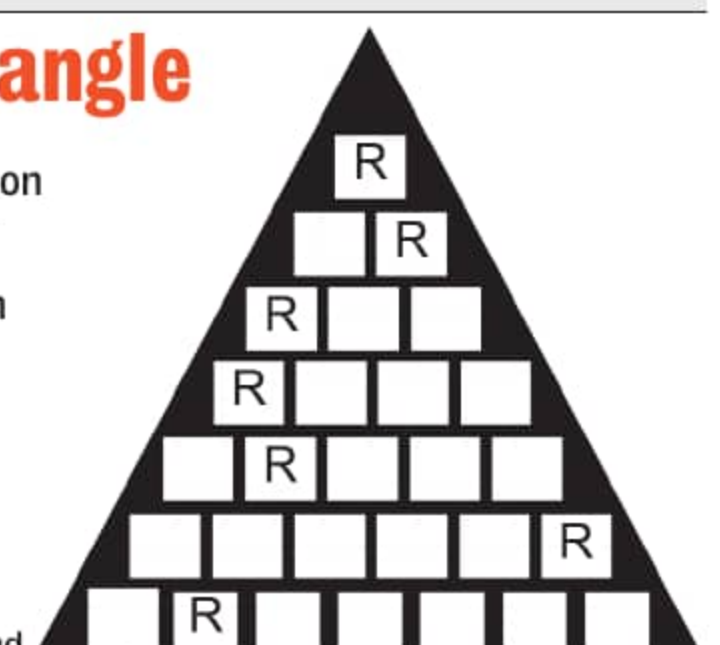
Riddler

I stare at you, you stare at me. I have three eyes, Yet I cannot see. Every time I blink, I give commands. You do as you are told. With your feet and hands. What am I?

Alpha triangle

- 1 XVIII letter
- 2 Sound of hesitation
- 3 Colour of danger
- 4 Split apart
- 5 Monotonous hum
- 6 Awe
- 7 Died in water

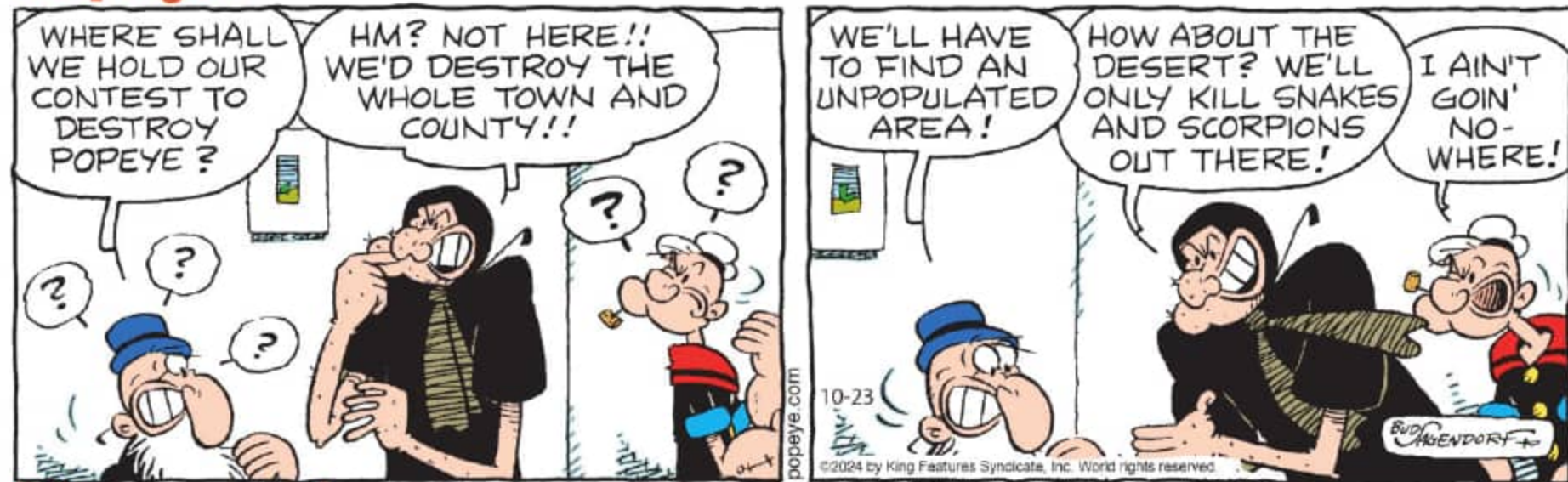
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be



made at each step answering to the clue given.

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



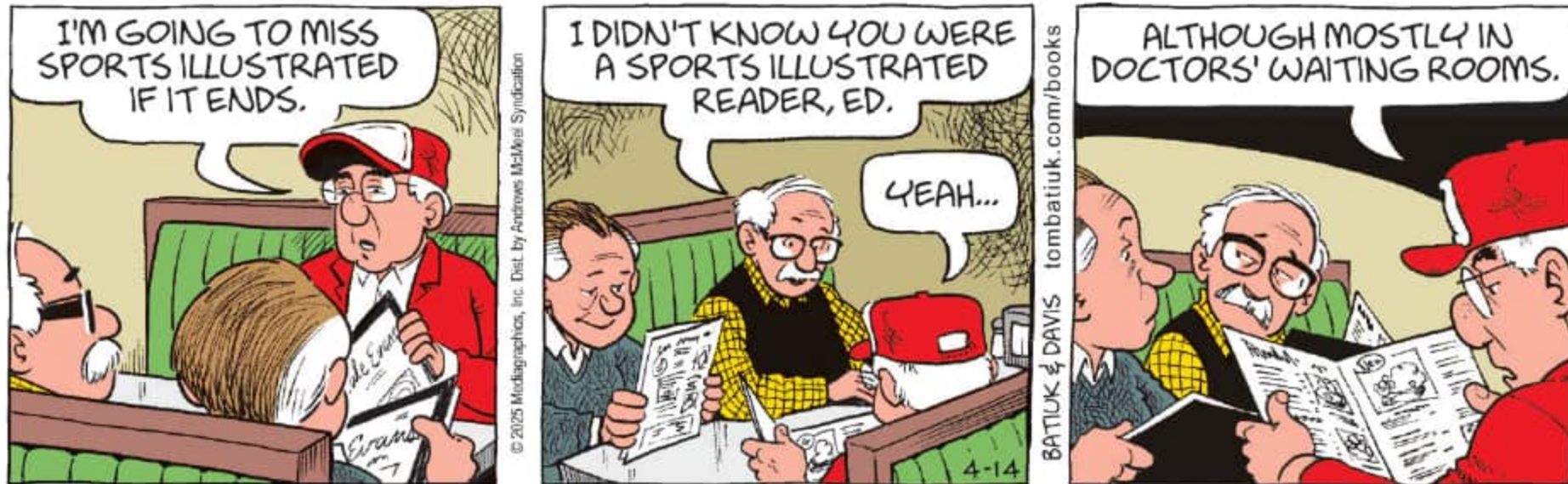
Diamond Lil



Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you might experience low energy and dissatisfaction. A sense of frustration may prevent you from enjoying your day. Be mindful of arrogance, as it could negatively impact both your professional and personal life. A lack of confidence might hold you back from taking creative steps at work.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today might bring feelings of disappointment. Control your temper and avoid arrogance, as harsh words could lead to unnecessary conflicts or financial losses. Lovebirds are advised to avoid petty arguments that might strain their relationship.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Negative lunar influence may create challenges today. Be cautious of conspiracies or controversies at work or in your personal life. Strong willpower and elders' blessings will help protect you. Avoid arguments at home and stay away from risky activities like fast driving or adventure trips.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

You'll feel energised today, allowing you to perform efficiently. Your hard work is likely to bring results, boosting your confidence. Property-related disputes with siblings may finally be resolved. A meeting with an influential person could help expand your network, and any lingering conflicts with your partner may also be settled.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Mental peace will help you focus today. Consider investing in your business to improve liquidity and future earnings. Financial growth could boost your bank balance. Romantic time with your spouse will promote harmony at home. Singles may find a suitable match, and existing couples may move toward marriage.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Happiness will surround you today as previous losses may turn into gains. Your efforts at work will likely be recognised and appreciated, possibly leading to promotions or a change in position. You'll have the upper hand over competitors and rivals. Couples may take serious steps toward marriage, supported by family or friends.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Blessed by the Moon, you'll feel happy and approach people around you with politeness. With family support, you may make key decisions for your business. Strong communication skills could help you secure a significant order, leading to increased business growth.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, lunar blessings will keep things under control. You'll work efficiently, with a sharp focus that reflects in your output. Your wisdom will guide you in making important professional decisions. Past investments may now start yielding profits.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today, you'll be enthusiastic and productive at work. Quick decision-making will accelerate your projects and boost business progress. You might explore new ventures or innovations in partnership. However, avoid making investments in fixed assets through partnerships for now.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

The moon's blessings will give you inner strength and positivity today. You'll enjoy your work and share romantic moments with your spouse, strengthening domestic harmony. You may plan new projects and, with your attention to detail, successfully implement them. Job seekers may receive favourable opportunities. Lovebirds should avoid unnecessary discussions to maintain peace.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Positive lunar energy favours you today. Your health will be good, and a visit to a religious place with friends or family may bring peace. You might consider donating to a charity or religious cause. Property deals could move forward, and overseas travel or higher education plans may develop.

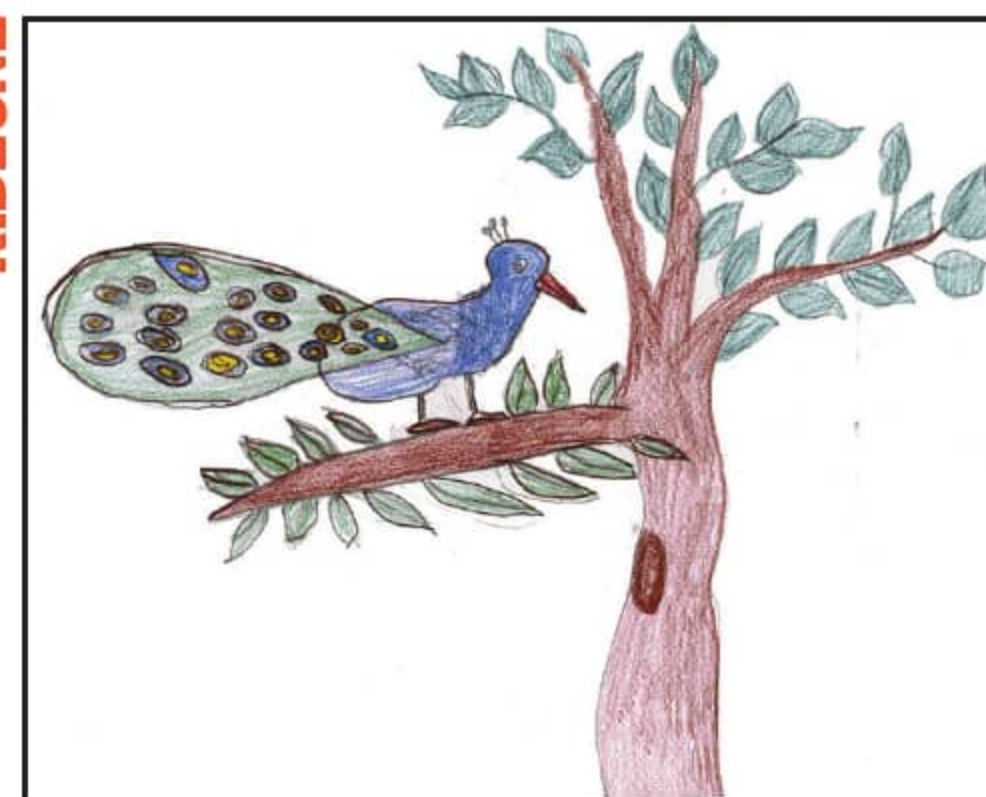


Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

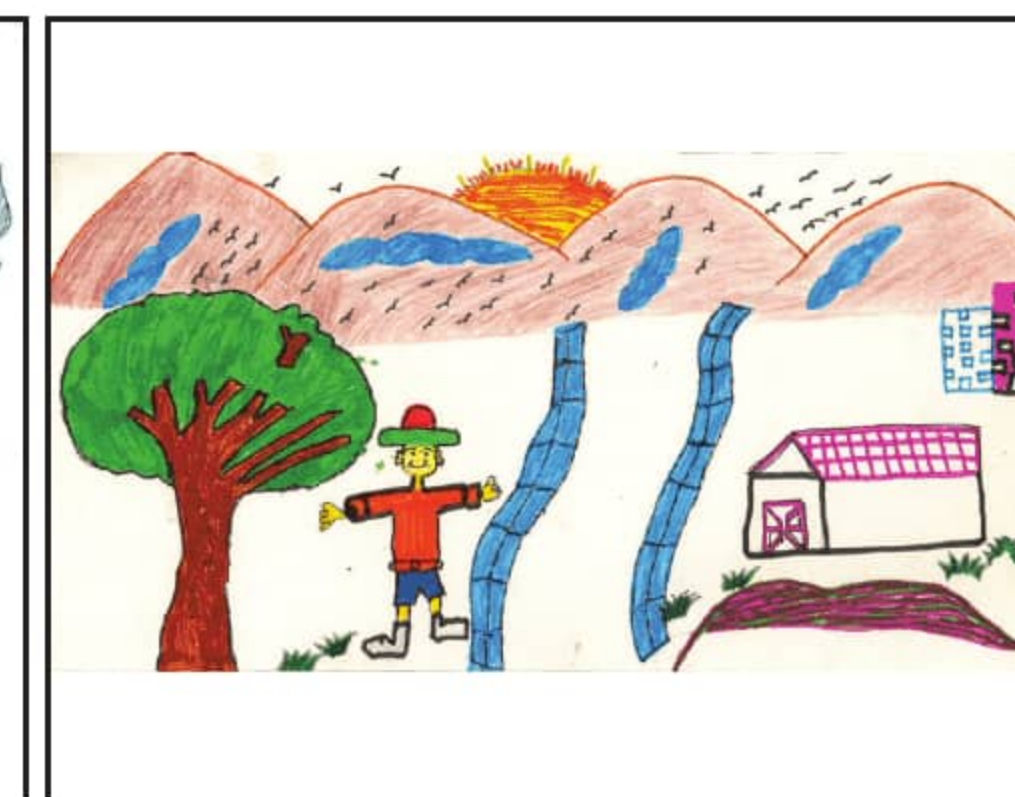
Lunar blessings will support you today. Your performance at work may bring promotions or transfers with financial benefits. You might consider changing jobs for better prospects. Your rapport with seniors will strengthen, and lingering health issues may finally resolve.



KIDZONE



R Ananyaa, Bengaluru



Sadhvi, Bengaluru

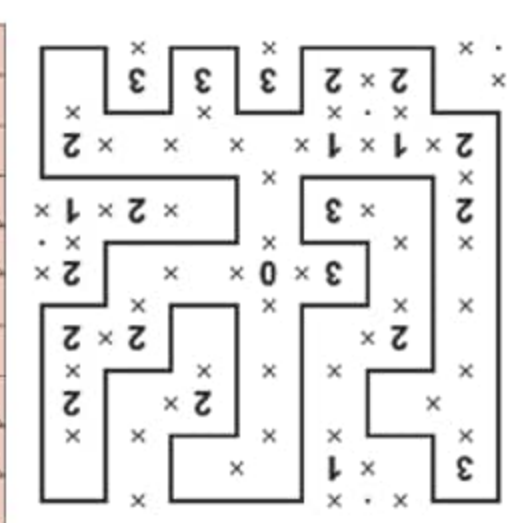
Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;

Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

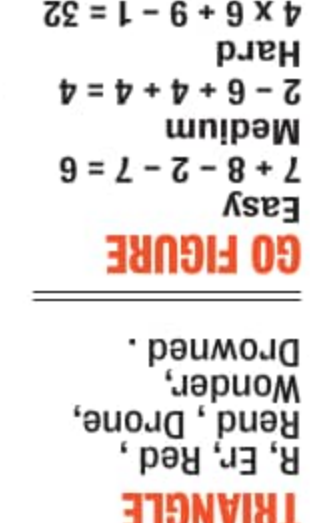
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



LOOP



ALPHA



SUDOKU



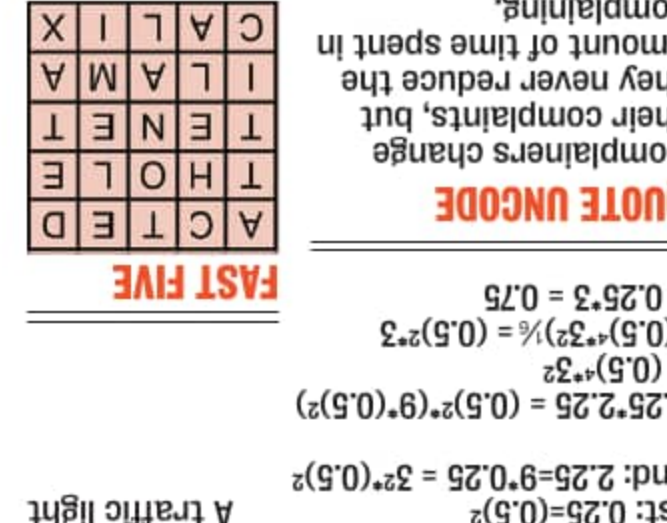
MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



RIDDLER

SOLVE IN 1M



NOT JUDGY, JUST EASY-GOING

Sara speaks on ease of working with Aditya and evolution of her social media habits

Sara Ali Khan is clearly in a reflective and grateful mood after the success of 'Metro... In Dino', which hit theatres on July 4.

Directed by Anurag Basu, the romantic drama has connected with audiences for its heart-felt stories and fresh pairings. One such pairing is that of Sara and Aditya Roy Kapur.

In a recent interview with Hindustan Times, Sara opened up about how comfortable she felt working with Aditya. "Adi is a very easy-going person. He allows the other person to feel relaxed. He's not judgy, so that makes it very easy to work with him," she shared. Sara portrayed the role of Chumki, while Aditya played Parth in the film.

Sara also spoke about her evolving relationship with social media. While

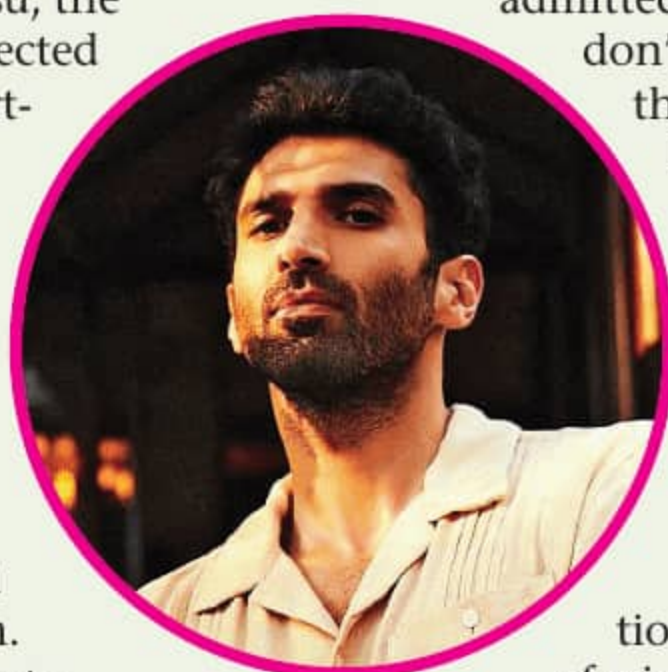
she was once known for her vibrant, quirky Instagram presence, things have changed. "I used to enjoy Instagram maybe a little more than I do now," she

admitted. "That's not to say that I don't enjoy it at all... But now there are days when I'll feel like doing something fun and I'll do it, but I don't necessarily feel that way as often as maybe I did." The constant scrutiny and noise, she hinted, have made her rethink her online presence.

In the same conversation, Sara mentioned a piece of wisdom shared by her

'Metro... In Dino' co-star Anupam Kher. "He was speaking about how actually our existence is just between action and cut," she said.

Sara is in talks to work with director Aanand L Rai again, after their earlier collaboration in 'Atrangi Re'. **-ETimes**



What is the big surprise?

Actress Rashmika Mandanna has been hinting for a long time now that she has something really big in store for her admirers.

Adding to the excitement, the 'Pushpa' actress revealed that she will be making the big announcement on Monday.

Rashmika took to her Instagram handle and dropped a video where she was heard saying, "Okay, I can't believe I am finally recording this. Like you know by now, I have been working on something very very very close to my heart- it's not just a project, it's something I've poured my love into for you- for every message, for every cheer, every bit of love you have sent my way for the years. This is me sharing a little piece of that with you."

"I hope you feel it, I hope you love it - can't wait to share it with you. It's launching tomorrow, and I am very very very excited about this and very nervous, and very grateful," she added. Her latest IG post was captioned, "Been keeping something special to myself for a while now... and trust me, it's not easy when all I want to do is share it with you... Just a little longer..."

The actress shared earlier she will be starting a business soon. On her Insta handle, she dropped a video of a conversation with her mom. She said, "Today, I am going to be shooting for something very, very important, something that you had said; this business I am going to start."

-IANS



Star of opening act



Tillotama Shome's Bengali-language drama 'Baksho Bondi - Shadowbox' will open the 16th Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) on August 14, marking the film's Australian premiere after its world bow at the 75th Berlin International Film Festival, reported Variety.

'Baksho Bondi' was co-directed by debutant Tanushree Das and Saumyananda Sahi and stars Shome as Maya, a woman working multiple jobs, from house cleaning to chicken farming to laundry pressing, while caring for her PTSD-afflicted husband and their teenage son.

The situation becomes tricky after Shome's husband becomes implicated in a murder investigation. **-ANI**

'Not just babies, even older kids need a loving home'

Actor cum cricket show host Mandira Bedi has said that while people generally adopt infants, grown-up parentless children should also have adoptive parents.

She also said the process should be made simpler to encourage people to go for adoption.

Bedi, the mother of a biological child and an adoptive child, said, "For us, adoption was never the last



resort."

"Even when I was dating my husband, I told him I've always wanted to have a biological child and adopt one. It wasn't just a passing thought—it was a dream I held on to from my early 20s," she said.

Motherhood is not defined by blood, but by intention, love and life-long commitment," Bedi said

while speaking at a panel discussion 'Normalising and Encouraging Adoption in India'. While adoption conversations often centre around infants, Bedi turned the spotlight on a reality often overlooked—the plight of older orphaned children in the adoption system.

"So many children get missed out. Everybody wants a baby they can hold from the very beginning. But slightly older children remain in the system unseen and forgotten. Think of them too, because nobody else does," she said. **-PTI**

Billie Eilish teases collab with James Cameron

Singer Billie Eilish took a break during her concert in Manchester on Saturday to announce that she's working on a project being shot in 3D by James Cameron, reported Variety.

Although the singer didn't reveal details about the project, she did confirm that she is filming something that requires her to wear the same outfit for four nights at Co-op Live, where Cameron was in the audience, according to the outlet.

"So you may have noticed that there are more cameras than usual in here," Eilish addresses the crowd, as quoted by Variety.

"Basically, I can't say much about it but what I can say is that I'm working on something very, very special with



somebody named James Cameron and it's going to be in 3D. So, take that as you will and these four shows here in Manchester, you and me are part of a thing that I am making with him. He's in this audience somewhere,

just saying. So don't mind that, and also I'll probably be wearing this exact outfit for like four days in a row," added Billie Eilish as quoted by Variety.

More details of the project are still awaited by the fans of the singer. In the past, Eilish has released several films, including the 2021 documentary 'Billie Eilish: The World's a Little Blurry' and the concert film 'Happier Than Ever: A Love Letter to Los Angeles.' **-ANI**